



# COMMUNICATING WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH IN SPANISH

## WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM?

- Since 1992, work-related fatalities among Hispanic workers in the United States have increased by more than 50%.
- In the year 2000 alone, work-related fatalities among Hispanic workers increased by 12% in all U.S. industries and by more than 24% in the construction industry.
- Few resources are available to help Spanish-speaking workers and their employers learn about occupational safety and health.

## WHAT HAS NIOSH ACCOMPLISHED?

Each year, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) communicates key occupational research findings to the public and decision makers. Targeted efforts to reduce illness and injury among Hispanic workers include translating this information into Spanish and communicating it in ways that are culturally and socially relevant to them.

### *Examples of program in action:*

- NIOSH instituted *NIOSH en Español* ([www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh))—an all-Spanish-language web site containing information about NIOSH, Spanish translations of selected NIOSH publications, and links to other useful Spanish-language materials on occupational safety and health.
- NIOSH began a Spanish-language answering system for the NIOSH 800-number and a system for responding to e-mail requests in Spanish.
- NIOSH sponsored a National Academy of Sciences workshop to identify key occupational safety and health information needs of Spanish-speaking workers, their employers, and the occupational safety and health community. Invited experts provided data on the rates of occupational injury and illness for Hispanic workers, Spanish-language safety and health information needs and resources, and best practices for reaching Spanish-speaking audiences.
- In FY2002, NIOSH published *Soluciones Simples: Ergonomía Para Trabajadores Agrícolas* ([www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/pdfs/2001-111sp.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/spanish/niosh/docs/pdfs/2001-111sp.pdf)) that provides illustrated, easy-to-read guidelines and tip sheets for Spanish-speaking farm workers, their employers, and safety professionals.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- NIOSH will develop a strategy for communicating workplace safety and health information effectively to Spanish-speaking workers, their employers, and occupational safety and health professionals.
- NIOSH will continue to supplement and enhance the occupational safety and health information provided on the *NIOSH en Español* web site.
- NIOSH will continue to work with partners to explore best practices for communicating occupational safety and health information to Hispanic-owned small businesses and businesses with a large Hispanic workforce.

For additional information on this and other NIOSH programs, visit [www.cdc.gov/niosh](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh).

March 2003

